



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

*Federal Building
55 Pleasant Street, Room 312
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

603/225-1552

MEDIA RELEASE
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Contact: Thomas P. Colantuono
United States Attorney
Michael J. Gunnison
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(603) 225-1552

GUILTY PLEA ENTERED IN CASE CHARGING
IMPOSTER WITH WEARING NAVY UNIFORM, NAVY CROSS

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, and Michael Sheahan, Supervisory Special Agent for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, announced that **MATTHEW PHILLIPS, 30**, pleaded guilty to charges that he wore, without authorization, an armed services uniform and decorations in the Keene, New Hampshire area in December 2004 and February 2005. **PHILLIPS**, formerly of Concord, New Hampshire, currently resides in Springfield, Vermont.

According to the charges and the facts described at yesterday's court hearing and admitted by **PHILLIPS**, the defendant appeared at a Navy recruiting office wearing the uniform of a Navy Lieutenant and decorations including the Navy Cross, the Navy's second highest award, ranking below only the Medal of Honor. **PHILLIPS** introduced himself as a Navy SEAL, and later participated in a recruiting drive at Bellows Falls High School in Vermont. Only after the recruiting drive did recruiters discover that **PHILLIPS** had in fact never been a member of the U.S. Navy. **PHILLIPS** also attended public ceremonies in Claremont, New Hampshire on Veterans Day, November 11, 2004, in which he appeared in a Navy Lieutenant's uniform and wore the Navy Cross.

Each of the charges is a Class B misdemeanor which carries a maximum sentence of 6 months imprisonment. At today's court hearing, U.S. Magistrate Judge James R. Muirhead set the case for sentencing on May 22, 2006, at 9:30 a.m.

The case was investigated by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael J. Gunnison.